

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



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TO: Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers

FROM: Lori Hutchinson, Vaccine Coordinator *lh*
Montana Immunization Program

DATE: October 18, 2010

SUBJECT: Varicella and MMRV Ordering Black-out dates, Kinrix Availability, and Update on Seasonal Influenza Orders

Black-out dates for ordering varicella and MMRV

The CDC is switching to a new vaccine ordering system in November. During the transition, orders for VFC varicella and MMRV, which are shipped directly from Merck, will not be processed. Currently the black-out for these orders begins November 19, 2010 and is scheduled to last two to three weeks. Please note that this black-out only applies to varicella and MMRV. Vaccines that ship from McKesson are not affected.

We ask that you assess inventories carefully for your November reports (due November 5th) and place orders so that you have a two to three month supply of varicella and/or MMRV. This will prevent a surge of orders prior to the black-out, and will get you through the black-out and any delays that may occur when ordering resumes. Orders for varicella and MMRV received after the black-out begins will be held until the system comes back online.

Kinrix

The ability to order Kinrix has been temporarily suspended. If you ordered Kinrix in September or October and did not receive it, please re-order with your next order. The vaccine is expected to be available in late October/early November.

Seasonal influenza orders

Our allocation of seasonal influenza vaccine is still arriving at McKesson. The supply is expected to continue to arrive into November and beyond. To date, we have received between 65–90% of our allocation, depending on the presentation. If you already placed an order but have not received your full allotment, there is no need to re-order. We track the original order and the shipments applied to it. As vaccine becomes available, we will ship more out to the clinics. This year, we are able to place orders about every two weeks. If you are requesting additional vaccine, please add a note to the order form so we know it is in addition to your original order.

Reminders

- If you have vaccine that will expire in the next three months and will not be used by your clinic, please contact the Immunization Program at 444-5580 so we can assist in finding it a new home.

If you have any questions, please contact the Immunization Program at 444-5580.

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